

WILMINGTON, N. C.,  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1866.

## The Situation of the South.

We live in an age of such wonderful changes, and the political transitions are so rapid and momentous, as scarcely to allow time for the expression of our astonishment at one event, before another, as astounding arrests our attention. It is natural, under such circumstances, that we should pause to reflect on the probable consequences of these startling changes;—men always stand still and are silent in the presence of great events, but we are not permitted to do either; we cannot stand still, for the rushing current of change carries us on in spite of ourselves, and silence is not permitted to us of the South: it is called "sullen obstinacy," which deserves punishment, and we are threatened with the sleeping vengeance of the North if we remain silent. This state of things can alone account for the strange and otherwise unaccountable obnoxiousness of the past by the Northern mind. How otherwise can we explain the course taken in regard to the South, or the estimate formed in respect to us, as is daily exhibited in the Northern journals? Can they have forgotten that the Southern States for sixty out of the eighty years of our national existence controlled the policy of the Government?—that in their attempt to sever themselves from the North, they displayed a heroism, a manhood and an endurance which have challenged the admiration of the world?—If they have not, how is it that they have failed to impress on the Northern mind their real character? Can it be supposed that such a race, who have been as ascendant in the Cabinet as in the field, (where numbers approximate,) have suddenly sunk into a state of mental imbecility? Do the North believe that the *spirit* which animated this race is gone and forever?—Is it extinct? and if so, where is the evidence of it? Perhaps they may yet find "it is not dead, but sleeping." It is true, there are men in this, as in every country, who yield to the despondency which is the shadow of defeat, who were wanting in nature in the manliness and energy necessary to the achievement of great enterprises, and who, in going into the war, were half conquered before a blow was struck. Upon such men, defeat in an engagement or two, produced the natural effect on such minds,—despair of final success and reluctant aid in continuing the struggle; and these men are still among us, and having been sustained in their prognostics by the results of the war, have no little credit given them for having been more sagacious than their neighbors. These men are anxious to accept any terms, however degrading in themselves, so they can once again see the Southern Representatives re-seated in the halls of Congress. But we are gratified to know that such men constitute a small minority in the South.

If we have endeavored to impress on our readers one line of policy rather than another in regard to this subject, it has been to yield whatever is *just and proper*, irrespective of small or unimportant issues, but we have not failed to insist that there were points which could not be yielded, which involved an abandonment of all self-respect, all pride of character as a people, and to concede a fatal wound on "the land we love."

What would seem, from the course of these submissionists, that they were not well-advised of the true situation of the South, and in consequence of this ignorance, are ready to take the alarm at every fresh threat uttered by Northern journals of other and more terrible consequences which await us in the event of our "obstinate rejection" (as it is called) of the liberal, generous, yet magnanimous terms heretofore offered us. Now let us know the worst—firm and brave men are best dealt with in this manner, and we think the South has earned these terms as applicable to their statesmen no less than their soldiers, our adversaries themselves being the judges. What are these *monstra horrenda* which are held up in the dark to frighten us from our properties, which shall produce such despair on our part, that nothing, save abject submission on our bended knees, remains to us? We think, as in most other cases of threatened penalties, the reality will be found less terrible than the anticipation. This will appear from a hasty glance at the powers of Congress. The present Congress, like all legislative bodies, are judges of the qualifications of the respective members of each House. If they choose to disregard the Constitution, they can require (as they have done) tests of membership never exacted before, and may exclude any members to whom such tests apply—this being done, their power in this respect is exhausted. By sufficient majorities they can pass acts over and in defiance of the Executive veto, as they have done in the "Civil Rights Bill" and others. But where an amendment of the Constitution is to be made, fortunately for the South, it requires a majority of three-fourths of all the States through their Legislatures or Conventions expressly called for the purpose. Happily for those most interested, this majority of three-fourths cannot at present be obtained, nor can it be until the Union shall number 52 States! So far, then, as the power of Congress is concerned, we see no cause for such terror and dismay as seem to have seized upon many of our Southern men, and which the Radical press of the North are determined shall be widened, deepened and extended, if violent threats and unmeasured denunciations can effect this desirable end. This is the object to which many of these journals bend the whole of their powers, and this in utter defiance of truth, as may be seen in the New York Times of the 14th inst., in which we are informed that the Constitution shall be altered and amended as *the people please*; and this is announced with the flippancy and falsehood which has long characterized that sheet when the South is the subject—hear it: "The people will not tolerate the unconditional restoration of the South to

power, and they will alter and amend the Constitution, if need be, to suit their purposes." We have been so long accustomed to witness the reckless disregard alike of the Constitution and of the *truth* in these Radical journals, that we ought not, perhaps, to be surprised even at such a declaration as this of the Times, and yet, if carefully coned, it is very suggestive. The bold falsehood of the first section of the sentence, viz: "That the people, that is, the party now in power, will change the Constitution," when the writer well knew the people could do no such thing, is by no means the most offensive part of the announcement.

What was intended for the ignorant (which is of course much the larger part) of the readers of the Times, is the avowal that the South "should not be restored to power," as if giving Southern members their seats was restoring the South to power. This is the string which they delight to harp upon; it was once "the slave power," it is now and still the Southern power, and all their vengeance is roused by an allusion merely to it. The treachery which lurks in this insinuation is very characteristic, but the most censurable part of this shameless avowal, is that in which the object or purpose of changing the Constitution is declared—it is not because the Constitution is wrong and ought to be changed for that reason—it is not because as it is at present the rights of any section or person are compromised, or any existing wrongs will be corrected. Not at all; it is avowed openly, brazenly, impudently—"the people will change the Constitution to suit their purposes." We think if any utterance of the press can be cited to exceed this in the impudent effrontery of power, it must be found when it was under the direction of Robespierre and Marat.

## Our Relations to the Negro.

A few days ago we introduced "Our Relations to the Negro" to the consideration of our people. Pursuing the ideas advanced in that article, we purpose to-day to treat at some length what we believe to be our duty in connection with the religious condition of that portion of this race whose lot is, and is to be, among us.

The Christian religion is so comprehensive in its beneficence as to embrace all classes of men; and from time immemorial its light has been shed upon the hearts of all, irrespective of position, class or condition. In times past, not one of the different orders of Christian Churches in the South but thought the slaves a fit subject of spiritual interest, and all strove, with wonderful success, to bring them into the full embrace of God's love. It is true that our relations are changed, but to what is to be attributed the almost entire absence of effort on our part now to retain the late slave under the holy influences of Christ's gospel? We have permitted him to fall away, and to accept the teaching of those who preach and practice a religion which belies every precept and practice of our Savior. Fanaticism, prejudice, materialism, hate and money are inculcated by these new apostles from a strange land in the place of practical piety, generous friendship, true spirituality, love and charity. We ought to arouse ourselves, and at once take the place which rightly is ours. Let us step, without hesitation, into the pulpit, the public ways, narrow lanes, the humble cabins, and point the weak, the ignorant, the young and the old, to that Savior who died for man. Look the world directly in the face, and say that duty calls us to this work. There may be some, but that number must be small, who feel that the negro, being free, no longer has a claim upon our good offices. Why has he not? For generations past our fathers taught and protected him, and changed him from what he was when bought, by New England rum, to what he now is. For this same time he has furnished us with the means to cultivate those noble characteristics of which our people are so justly proud. Is there nothing in memory to recall us to duty? We thought formerly that the Southern matron, opening to the slaves the Book of Life, and disclosing its truths, was an example worthy of the highest position assigned to woman. How often has the young maiden of our best blood taught the negro child the simple lessons of Christ's mission on the bright Sabbaths, which were then truly holy days in our land?—Have we forgotten that the noblest specimens of our race, born and reared among us, thought it a privilege to be disciples to these very slaves? What has happened to change or prevent the performance of this duty? Left to themselves, the result to them is too plain to be doubted, and too painful to be contemplated. Turned over to the tender mercies of the sharks of the Freedmen's Bureau, or to the emissaries of New England, the consequences will send the poor negro to destruction and perdition, and produce horrors for us at which the world would stand appalled.

We have before too often in these columns asserted our conviction of the utter impossibility of producing anything like an equality between the white and black races, and because we now draw the earnest attention of our people to what we conceive to be their plain duty, and what, in a worldly view, we believe will conduce powerfully to our material interest, we must not be considered as having changed, in the slightest degree, our opinions. What we desire is the good of the country, and as journalists, we wish to point out the means to attain that good in the highest degree. With this in view, we presume to call directly upon the Church organizations of our land, and to urge them to unite speedily in this work of bringing back to their charge, to their instruction, and to their kindly affections, the negroes who formerly belonged to them, and to use the means which God and man have given them to draw new members into their respective folds. If need be, educate men specially for this work. Let all feel that it is right, and that we should do that right earnestly. Is there degradation in this? Have we not often sent missionaries to the heathen? Let us drop the practices of the Pharisee and Puritan, and turn with manly hearts and Christian love to this wretched, which commends itself by all that can influence our

finer feelings. Let not our Churches be content to say that the negro has drawn himself voluntarily and without cause from their midst; this may be true, but if it is, so much the greater reason for the Churches to reach forth the hand of love, and guided by the dictates of wisdom, bring back those who have gone astray.—To refuse this, is to say that we admit the negro is able to provide for himself in all things. Let a united, vigorous, faithful and continued effort be made to accomplish this great and good end. It will but prepare the way the better for that other branch of education—the enlightenment of the intellect, which, with the proper employment of his physical powers, will bring the negro to the highest state of which his nature is capable.

## The Olden Time.

Probably there is no locality in the Southern country that has not suffered more or less from the ravages of the late war.—Some few, comparatively speaking, escaped, but the large majority were compelled to pass through the fiery ordeal, evidences of which still remain in ruined homesteads, and devastated fields, speaking in language mute, but eloquent of the sufferings of those whose "places shall know them no more for ever." The war has wrought many changes in localities and in societies, old things have passed away, and a new era has dawned upon us. Old habits, old feelings, old associations are required to be ignored or cast aside to make way for the advance of modern progress, for the age is entirely utilitarian. The generous hospitalities of the "good old times" in which this section of the State was particularly conspicuous, the unselfish liberality and chivalric bearing of the Cape Fear gentleman of that epoch, are not to be practiced, or even mentioned in comparison with these days of steam engines, electric telegraph, and lucifer matches. The marked respectability exhibited towards the gentler sex, has disappeared entirely. In those days no gentleman would address a lady on the street without uncovering, and we well remember, when but a lad, being strongly impressed with the profound respect shown by venerable men whose heads were silvered o'er with age, standing uncovered when some female friend passed by. In this age of improvement and advanced civilization, a tip of the finger to one's bet is all that custom requires, or fashion deems necessary. We have forgotten the manners and customs of our ancestors, and though vast improvements in all the arts and sciences have been developed with marvellous rapidity, yet in all the characteristics that adorn society, we fall far short of the standard of the old Cape Fear region. We have become more mercenary, more selfish in every way, more anxious to outstrip a financial competitor in our eagerness for the almighty dollar, than to lend a helping hand to modest merit struggling for existence. Such was not the characteristics of the men of the olden time. As an evidence of the manners and customs of the people of Cape Fear in those days, the following, from the pen of one of the best writers of his day may not be uninteresting: "Hospitality was carried to an extreme, in fact every class of society became infected by the example. The British Governor Martin, on a visit to Wilmington, styled it the 'region of politeness and hospitality.' Many of the families residing in it were possessed of fortunes, and all obtained subsistence without painful exertion. But the dissipation which arose out of an excess of hospitality, exhibited a more animated picture in the surrounding country. Whole families, and frequently several families together, were in the practice of making visits, and like the tents of the Arabs, seemed continually in motion. The number of visitants, the noise and bustle of arrivals and greetings, the cries of the poultry yard, and the bleatings of the pasture, require some sounding polysyllable to convey an idea of the joyous uproar, some new coined word to distinguish their caravan approaches from ordinary visits or formal visitations. Every visit was a sort of jubilee. Festive entertainments, balls, every species of amusement, which song and dance could afford, was resorted to. The neighboring courser, and the echoing horn, the sports of the turf and the pleasures of the chase, were alternately the objects of eager pursuit. Everywhere, on the Eastern and Western branches of the Cape Fear river, were men of fortune, related by blood or connected by marriage, whose settlements extended almost as far as the then lowly hamlet of Cross Creek, since dignified by the name of Fayetteville, and now swollen into importance by a numerous population. This general ease and prosperity was highly favorable to the cultivation of polite literature and to the development of talents of a certain kind. The state of manners tended to awaken a spirit of improvement which pervaded the whole community. Every family possessed a collection of the best English authors, besides there was a public library, supported by a society of gentlemen, and styled the 'Cape Fear Library.' Conversation was cultivated to a high degree. Emanating from letters or science, or rising out of the busy scenes of life, it always teemed with instruction and imparted delight. The point of honor was understood and recognized, and the slightest approach to indignity resented. In this exercise of colloquial talent, the ladies participated and heightened the pleasures. Then they were not as now; early instructed, or perhaps were not instructed at all, in the rudiments of knowledge; but they derived from reading, and imbibed from an association with eminent persons of the opposite sex, a tincture of taste and elegance, and they had softness, sentiment, grace, intelligence, every quality which, in the female sex, can inspire and exalt the enthusiasm of romantic passion. The actors in the hospitable conviviality of those times were far above the cast of ordinary *bon vivants*. There was Eustace, the correspondent of Sterne, who united wit, and genius, and learning, and science; Harriet, who could boast a genius for music and taste for letters; Lloyd, gifted with talents and adorned with classical literature; Pennington, an elegant writer, admired for his wit and his highly polished

urbanity; MacLaine, whose criticisms on Shakespeare would, if they were published, give him fame and rank in the republic of letters; Boyd, who, without pretensions to wit or humor, possessed the rare art of telling a story with spirit and grace, and whose elegiac numbers afforded a striking contrast to the vivid brilliancy of the scenes in which he figured; Moore, endowed with versatile talents and possessed of extensive information—a wit, always prompt in reply, as an orator, always "daring the mercy of chance"; Howe, whose imagination fascinated, whose reports overpowered, and whose conversation was enlivened by strains of exquisite railery. Wit and humor, and music and poetry, were drawn into action in social and convivial intercourse, and displayed all their charms among the festive deities, and heightened the glow of delight." Such was the character of society, in and around Wilmington during its early history, in those "good old days," the like of which we fear we shall never see again. We propose to give sketches of scenes, and some peculiarities of character exhibited in those days of our town, long before railroads were thought of, or railroads invented; when every man attended strictly to his own business, and meddled not with his neighbor's, and when our ladies, God bless them, allowed nature full scope for development, and required more of the modern appliances of art to embellish their charms.

**Burning of Granger's Hotel, at Goldsboro.**  
We regret to learn, by private telegram Friday morning, that the large and commodious building known as Granger's Hotel at Goldsboro, was totally destroyed by fire on last Friday night. We have heard no further particulars. The loss is evidently very heavy. We think the Hotel was owned by a company of several gentlemen.

Since writing the above we have received the full particulars through an extra issued by the Goldsboro News.  
**AWFUL CONFLAGRATION.**  
**Granger's Hotel in Ruins.**—Rain of Fire Flakes.—Extraordinary efforts saved the town from the fiery elements.  
This morning at four o'clock, the Granger Hotel was discovered to be on fire; the alarm bells were rung, and our citizens promptly rushed to the scene.  
The fire was first discovered rushing from the top of the building, and was seen by the firemen, who were on duty at the time, and who were immediately on the spot. The fire was so rapid in its progress, that it was not long before it had reached the roof, and the building was in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

On the lower floors, much of the furniture was saved, but in a damaged condition. The fire spread rapidly, and the building was soon in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

The fire was first discovered rushing from the top of the building, and was seen by the firemen, who were on duty at the time, and who were immediately on the spot. The fire was so rapid in its progress, that it was not long before it had reached the roof, and the building was in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

On the lower floors, much of the furniture was saved, but in a damaged condition. The fire spread rapidly, and the building was soon in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

The fire was first discovered rushing from the top of the building, and was seen by the firemen, who were on duty at the time, and who were immediately on the spot. The fire was so rapid in its progress, that it was not long before it had reached the roof, and the building was in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

On the lower floors, much of the furniture was saved, but in a damaged condition. The fire spread rapidly, and the building was soon in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

The fire was first discovered rushing from the top of the building, and was seen by the firemen, who were on duty at the time, and who were immediately on the spot. The fire was so rapid in its progress, that it was not long before it had reached the roof, and the building was in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

On the lower floors, much of the furniture was saved, but in a damaged condition. The fire spread rapidly, and the building was soon in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

The fire was first discovered rushing from the top of the building, and was seen by the firemen, who were on duty at the time, and who were immediately on the spot. The fire was so rapid in its progress, that it was not long before it had reached the roof, and the building was in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

On the lower floors, much of the furniture was saved, but in a damaged condition. The fire spread rapidly, and the building was soon in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

The fire was first discovered rushing from the top of the building, and was seen by the firemen, who were on duty at the time, and who were immediately on the spot. The fire was so rapid in its progress, that it was not long before it had reached the roof, and the building was in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

On the lower floors, much of the furniture was saved, but in a damaged condition. The fire spread rapidly, and the building was soon in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

The fire was first discovered rushing from the top of the building, and was seen by the firemen, who were on duty at the time, and who were immediately on the spot. The fire was so rapid in its progress, that it was not long before it had reached the roof, and the building was in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

On the lower floors, much of the furniture was saved, but in a damaged condition. The fire spread rapidly, and the building was soon in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

The fire was first discovered rushing from the top of the building, and was seen by the firemen, who were on duty at the time, and who were immediately on the spot. The fire was so rapid in its progress, that it was not long before it had reached the roof, and the building was in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

On the lower floors, much of the furniture was saved, but in a damaged condition. The fire spread rapidly, and the building was soon in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

The fire was first discovered rushing from the top of the building, and was seen by the firemen, who were on duty at the time, and who were immediately on the spot. The fire was so rapid in its progress, that it was not long before it had reached the roof, and the building was in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

On the lower floors, much of the furniture was saved, but in a damaged condition. The fire spread rapidly, and the building was soon in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

The fire was first discovered rushing from the top of the building, and was seen by the firemen, who were on duty at the time, and who were immediately on the spot. The fire was so rapid in its progress, that it was not long before it had reached the roof, and the building was in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

On the lower floors, much of the furniture was saved, but in a damaged condition. The fire spread rapidly, and the building was soon in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

The fire was first discovered rushing from the top of the building, and was seen by the firemen, who were on duty at the time, and who were immediately on the spot. The fire was so rapid in its progress, that it was not long before it had reached the roof, and the building was in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

On the lower floors, much of the furniture was saved, but in a damaged condition. The fire spread rapidly, and the building was soon in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

The fire was first discovered rushing from the top of the building, and was seen by the firemen, who were on duty at the time, and who were immediately on the spot. The fire was so rapid in its progress, that it was not long before it had reached the roof, and the building was in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

On the lower floors, much of the furniture was saved, but in a damaged condition. The fire spread rapidly, and the building was soon in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

The fire was first discovered rushing from the top of the building, and was seen by the firemen, who were on duty at the time, and who were immediately on the spot. The fire was so rapid in its progress, that it was not long before it had reached the roof, and the building was in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

On the lower floors, much of the furniture was saved, but in a damaged condition. The fire spread rapidly, and the building was soon in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

The fire was first discovered rushing from the top of the building, and was seen by the firemen, who were on duty at the time, and who were immediately on the spot. The fire was so rapid in its progress, that it was not long before it had reached the roof, and the building was in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

On the lower floors, much of the furniture was saved, but in a damaged condition. The fire spread rapidly, and the building was soon in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

The fire was first discovered rushing from the top of the building, and was seen by the firemen, who were on duty at the time, and who were immediately on the spot. The fire was so rapid in its progress, that it was not long before it had reached the roof, and the building was in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

On the lower floors, much of the furniture was saved, but in a damaged condition. The fire spread rapidly, and the building was soon in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

The fire was first discovered rushing from the top of the building, and was seen by the firemen, who were on duty at the time, and who were immediately on the spot. The fire was so rapid in its progress, that it was not long before it had reached the roof, and the building was in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

On the lower floors, much of the furniture was saved, but in a damaged condition. The fire spread rapidly, and the building was soon in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

The fire was first discovered rushing from the top of the building, and was seen by the firemen, who were on duty at the time, and who were immediately on the spot. The fire was so rapid in its progress, that it was not long before it had reached the roof, and the building was in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

On the lower floors, much of the furniture was saved, but in a damaged condition. The fire spread rapidly, and the building was soon in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

The fire was first discovered rushing from the top of the building, and was seen by the firemen, who were on duty at the time, and who were immediately on the spot. The fire was so rapid in its progress, that it was not long before it had reached the roof, and the building was in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

On the lower floors, much of the furniture was saved, but in a damaged condition. The fire spread rapidly, and the building was soon in flames. The firemen made every effort to save the building, but in vain. The fire was too strong for them, and the building was soon reduced to a mass of smoking ruins. The loss is very heavy, and the firemen are now engaged in removing the debris. The cause of the fire is not yet known, but it is believed to have been caused by a carelessness on the part of the firemen.

The names of Messrs. Blackstock, Freeman, Joyner and Barker were withdrawn from nomination, and the House voted as follows:

For Mr. Hampton, 60 votes; for Mr. Long, 34; for Mr. Whiting, 12; for Mr. Taylor, 2; for Mr. Busbee, 4.  
On this ballot there was no election. The joint vote stood thus: Whole number of votes cast 158. Necessary to a choice 80. Mr. Hampton received 76, Mr. Long 41, Mr. Whiting 21, Mr. Busbee 18, and Mr. Taylor 2.

On motion of Mr. Stone, a message was sent to the Senate, proposing another ballot for Engrossing Clerk.

The names of Messrs. Whiting and Busbee were withdrawn from nomination. The Senate concurred, and the House voted as follows: Hampton 71, Long 40, the joint vote stood thus: Whole number of votes 157. Necessary to a choice 79. Mr. Hampton received 103, Mr. Long 53, Mr. Busbee 1.

On motion of Mr. Holderby, a message was sent to the Senate, proposing that the two Houses proceed forthwith to the election of Secretary of State, and announcing the nomination in the House of Robt. W. Best, Esq., the present incumbent. The Senate, by message, announced concurrence and the House voted. Mr. Best received 147 votes.

The joint vote for Secretary of State was as follows: 147 votes cast. Necessary to a choice 74. Mr. Best received all the votes.

On motion of Mr. Hutcheson, a message was sent to the Senate, proposing that the two Houses proceed forthwith to elect a Comptroller.

Mr. Hutcheson nominated Pulaski Cooper, Esq., of Wake county. Mr. Rosebro nominated C. H. Drogden, of Wayne, the present incumbent. The Senate refused to concur in the proposition.

The House then adjourned until eleven o'clock, to-morrow.

## SENATE.

THURSDAY, NOV. 22, 1866.  
Mr. Gash, Senator from the Buncombe District, appeared in his seat and was duly qualified.

By Mr. Jones—Bill to extend the present term of the County Court of Wake. (Extended the term now being held one week.) Passed its several readings, under suspension of the rules, and was ordered to be engrossed.

**FREEDMEN HOMESTEADS.**  
By Mr. Berry—Bill to establish Freedmen Homesteads for the citizens of the State. Ordered to be printed and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Provides for the allotment of a Homestead not exceeding seventy-five acres in the country, to the freedmen in the city or town, which may include a dwelling house and necessary out-houses; not to be liable to execution for any debt or cause of action, except such as arise on penal bond or covenant previously executed.)

**EXCHANGING STOCKS FOR BONDS.**  
By Mr. Lowe—Bill repealing an ordinance of the late Convention, for exchanging the bonds of the State issued before the year 1861. Filed.

**RELIEF OF HONEST DEBTORS.**  
By Mr. Speed—Bill for the relief of honest debtors. Ordered to be printed.—This bill provides that any citizen owing debts contracted before May 1865, may file an affidavit in the Court of Equity setting forth such debts, and the total amount of his entire estate, real and personal, praying to appoint a commissioner to take charge of his estate and pay all creditors *pro rata*, the Court setting apart a reasonable support for himself and family for six months, with clauses protecting the creditor against fraud and protecting the debtors against needless suits, &c.)